

from an old established colony unknown to earlier entomologists? The second possibility seems the most likely, and if further investigations show that a colony exists here, one must surely assume the presence of the species elsewhere in Britain.

Acknowledgements

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* 1 The Furrells, Linton, Cambridge.

References

- Hannemann, H. J., 1961. *Die Tierwelt Deutschlands*. Part 48. Kleinschmetterlinge oder Microlepidoptera. I. Die Wickler (s.str.) (Tortricidae), p. 133.
Lhomme, L., 1946. *Catalogue des Lepidopteres de France et de Belgique*, Vol. 2, p. 350.
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A CASE AGAINST THE AUTOMOBILE. — Some months ago mention was made to me by Dr. J. V. Banner of the damage caused to the countryside, and nocturnal macro-lepidoptera in particular, by road traffic. Several aspects were discussed but deaths caused by physical collision took precedence. Although somewhat sceptical at first, I took the trouble to note such fatalities as and when they occurred during 1977—not a good year for moths, numerically speaking. The simple survey carried out covered the months of May to August inclusive, and for the purposes of the final figure quoted are taken as the annual toll—possibles and probables being disregarded, as were micros.

Almost 144,000 million miles were travelled by motor vehicles on the roads of Great Britain during 1972 (Dunn, J. B., 1974. *Transport and Road Research Laboratory Report* 618)—the last year for which figures are personally available. Of this traffic approximately 20% travelled nocturnally (Gyenes, L., 1973. *Transport and Road Research Laboratory Report* 549) dependent on site. Thus a total of 28,800 million miles were covered during the hours of darkness—9,600 million during the survey months.

The survey totalled some 355 miles of relevant motoring, with fatalities numbering 69 moths. A simple calculation reveals the incredible figure of over 1,800 million moths killed annually by motor vehicles alone. The highest rate of deaths noted was 10 per 10 miles and the lowest nil. These figures are not quoted as an accurate total but rather as a strong guide to the undoubted slaughter that is occurring on our roads and to indicate the perhaps unrealised magnitude of the deaths.

To end on a more hopeful note, a similar survey on butterflies totalled “only” six deaths during the year—interestingly they were all Pieridae and therefore of the genus that could perhaps best withstand such losses—COLIN PRATT, “Oleander”, 5 View Road, Peacehaven, Newhaven, Sussex.